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**REMARKS**

Filed concurrently herewith is a Request for a Three-Month Extension of time which extends the shortened statutory period for response to June 14, 2007. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Official Action dated December 14, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 1 and 9 have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. As previously, claims 1-9 are presently pending in the instant application.

Turning now to the Official Action and particularly page 2 thereof, claims 1 and 9 and their dependents have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Particularly, the respect to claim 1 the Examiner notes that the language "n is an integer from 1 and 5" is indefinite. In this regard as can be seen from the foregoing amendments independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that "n is an integer from 1 to 5". Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as well as those claims which depend therefrom are now in proper formal condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 9, the Examiner has rejected such claim in that it is not clear if Applicants are referring to the actual filter size (5 microns ?) or if Applicants mean the pore size of the filter. In this regard as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, claim 9 has been amended to make clear that it is the pore size of the filter which is recited as being not less than 5 microns. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 9 is likewise in proper condition for allowance.

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PAGE 6/10 \* RCVD AT 6/13/2007 5:51:44 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/2 \* DNI:2738300 \* CSID:866 741 0075 \* DURATION (mm:ss):02:02

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Turning now to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,127,560 issued to Stidham in view of Srivastava, Appal Energy and Anyang General. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the combination of references and teachings thereof neither disclose or suggest that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

While Applicants agree with the Examiner that references cited to show a universal fact need not be available as prior art before Applicants' filing date, it is respectfully submitted that the references as a whole set forth by the Examiner fail to disclose or suggest that which is currently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention. That is, independent claim 1 recites, a process for the preparation of biodiesel having a Cetane number in the range of 45 to 67 and total nitrogen content in the range of 0.03 to 0.033% comprising heating an oil having a specific gravity in the range of 0.85 to 0.96 and an iodine value not exceeding 208 to a temperature not exceeding 120°C for not less than 2 hours, transesterifying the oil with 8 to 42% w/w of alcohol of general formula R-OH, where R represents (C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+1</sub>), wherein n is an integer from 1 to 5, in presence of not more than 0.55% w/w, of a catalyst, at a temperature higher than the boiling point of the alcohol but not exceeding 215°C for a period of not less than 30 minutes under continuous turbulent conditions to obtain a mixture of ester and glycerol, separating the esterified oil from the mixture for a period of not less than 4 hours, purifying the mixture for a period of not less than 8 hours, wherein the purification step involves bubble washing; and repeating the separating and purifying steps in succession for not less than 3 times to obtain a biodiesel having a Cetane number in the range of 45 to 67 and a total nitrogen content in the range of 0.03 to 0.033%. Accordingly, the process set forth in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention prepares a biodiesel having a certain quality which is neither disclosed in nor remotely suggested by the prior art combination

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proposed by the Examiner. That is, Applicants' claimed invention sets forth a process for preparing a biodiesel focused on the ever growing conscientiousness towards environmental and health issues. That is, the biodiesel formed in accordance with Applicants' process is more eco-benign and engine friendly in that the product when used independently or in combination with other fuels, does not corrode an engine. Moreover, the biodiesel formed in accordance with Applicants' process reduces emission of hazardous gas-like NO<sub>x</sub> to the extent of about 58% as compared to normal fossil diesel.

As noted previously, neither Stidham nor Srivastava teach or suggest the particular process set forth in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention. In rejecting Applicants' claimed invention, the Examiner states that Stidham differs from the claims in several regards and particularly in the temperature and time process parameters set forth therein. Further, the Examiner realizes the several other shortcomings associated with the teachings of Stidham as compared to that of Applicants' claimed invention. With respect to the parameters, such parameters are essential in achieving a biodiesel having a Cetane number in the range of 45 to 67 and total nitrogen content in the range of 0.03 to 0.033% as is specifically recited by Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that contrary to the Examiner's assertion, in order to achieve the biodiesel set forth in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, the parameters referred to in Applicants' claimed invention are needed. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1 as well as those claims which depend therefrom clearly distinguish over the combination proposed by the Examiner and is in proper condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 6 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stidham in view of U.S. Patent No.

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5,116,546 issued to Klok. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the combination proposed by the Examiner clearly fails to disclose or remotely suggest that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

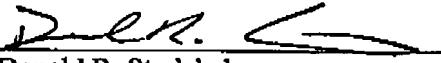
Initially, it is noted that each of claims 6 and 9 are directly dependent upon independent claim 1 and include all the limitations thereof. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner' rejection of such claims is improper in that the rejection of claim 1 relies on the teachings of several references in addition to that of Stidham. Despite this shortcoming, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of Klok likewise fail to overcome the aforementioned shortcomings associated with prior combination proposed by the Examiner. While Klok may teach that a methyl ester of a transesterification process is filtered, this reference fails to disclose or remotely suggest the particular features set forth in accordance with independent claim 1. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in each of claims 6 and 9 which include all the limitations of independent claim 1, likewise distinguishes over the combination proposed by the Examiner and is in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-9 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

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Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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